

Department of Justice

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LEMOORE MAN SENTENCED TO OVER 11 YEARS IN PRISON FOR DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Florida Investigation Led to Army Recruiter

FRESNO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that RAMON SANTOS Jr., 42, of Lemoore, Calif., was sentenced today by United States District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill to 135 months in prison for receipt and distribution of child pornography. The prison sentence will be followed by a 10-year term of supervised release with restricted access to minors, computers, and the Internet. SANTOS also will be required to register as a sex offender.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Palm Beach County (Florida) Sheriff's Department working in conjunction with the Fresno Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Assistance was also provided by the U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service. This prosecution is part of the ongoing Department of Justice program Project Safe Childhood. For more about this initiative, visit www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/psc.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who prosecuted the case, investigators in Florida seized and analyzed a computer known to be involved in the distribution of images of child pornography through the use of an America Online e-mail account. Investigators determined that SANTOS had sent images depicting the sexual abuse of minors to one or more persons. A search warrant for his residence at the Naval Air Station Lemoore was executed, his computer was seized, and when it was analyzed numerous images of child pornography were recovered. Court documents reveal that several of the images depicted violence. One video was approximately 29 minutes in length and involved images of children as young as three years of age being sexually abused. When the search warrant was executed, SANTOS, a 17-year veteran and sergeant in the Army Reserves, was employed as a recruiter for the Army.

SANTOS was indicted on April 3, 2008 and has been in custody since his guilty plea on August 22, 2008.